124 Swahili. Many Masai in the area speak some Swahili, so
• [191] using Swahili and a limited number of Masai nouns we usually could converse with Masai throughout the study area. Occasionally we had the services of interpreters.

123 These Masai regard visitors in their country with
[609] interest and guarded suspicion. The suspicion is greatest if they believe the visitors are representatives of the Government. After we had lived on safari in Western Masailand for some months constantly moving from place to place the Masai appeared to accept us as a harmless, neutral, and occasionally interesting phenomenon.

Our status with them was helped by our work
[231] with grass and animals. Above all else the Masai appear
[181] concerned with animal husbandry. They have a lively interest in wild animals, appreciation for domestic livestock that is almost reverence, and an understanding of the importance of grass. Our work on these things therefore seemed understandable. Beyond the frequent initial query: were we with the Government, there was never any question of why we were working there. The Masai appear to accept without question that white men are prone to the strangest behavior. Movie companies and some tourists fortify this conviction.